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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 16 November 1954

SUBJECT 1. Military Installations in Bratislava
2. Installations and Trade in the Port of Bratislava

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. A new military port for engineer troops is being constructed in the wood called Ovsietok on the right bank of the Danube river in Bratislava, across the river basin of the Bratislava civilian harbor (see attached sketch). The whole wood is a military area, bounded on the western side by a barbed wire fence. Around the fence there are inscriptions on poles indicating that the area is off limits for civilian personnel. Since the end of 1953 a stone paved harbor basin about 100 meters wide and 350 meters long has been built by the engineers in this wood. Bulldozers and dredgers were seen by the Source on the construction site. Until April 1954, the construction site was hidden from view by a large iron screen located on the river bank. After the removal of this screen the mouth of the basin could be seen from the Danube river; however, owing to the difficult access to the area and a thick growth of trees and bushes all around the construction site, the Source was unable to ascertain the exact location of the basin.² Close to the dike and situated between the new basin and the engineer barracks located in this wooded area³, two one story buildings, which the Source believes to be garages for military vehicles, were built.
2. In May 1954 all engineer pontoons, gunboats, and mine layers which used to be anchored in the military part of the Bratislava winter harbor were transferred to the newly constructed military port mentioned in para 1. However, the military storage building # 18 (point 30 of the sketch) in the Bratislava civilian port is still being used by the engineers. The monitor Masaryk which was badly damaged during WW II, while used by Germans, is being repaired in the Bratislava civilian port. In May 1954, the repair of this boat was almost finished and guns of approximately 15 cm caliber were mounted on its deck.
3. At the end of April 1954 the Source was informed by an Army officer that an engineer regiment was located in the Mlynске Nivy barracks in Bratislava.⁴ According to the same information several three and four story civilian dwelling houses in the Tehelno Pole district of Bratislava⁵ should be confiscated for military purposes and remodeled into military barracks.

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4. The engineer unit from Kromeriz (P50/N92) which was last reported in Bratislava in September 1953 was observed in May 1954 again bivouacking in a tent camp in the Ovsiste wood.⁶ This unit conducted exercises consisting of building pontoon bridges across the Danube river and of navigating gunboats.
5. Twelve new underground air-raid shelters are being built in the Bratislava Danube river port. Nine of them were finished in May 1954: five large shelters (approximately 10x10 meters) and four smaller ones (approximately 6x6 meters). All of them are covered by a three meters thick reinforced concrete plate and provided with a ventilator. Each shelter has four exits. The five larger shelters are situated as follows: The first near the entrance to the port from Kosakova street, the second near the entrance from Kosicka street, the third between the sailors' home (point 15) and the first harbor basin, the fourth near the military storage building / 18 (point 30) and the fifth in the eastern part of the port where the crude oil storage tanks belonging to the Slovnaft firm are located (point 31). The four smaller shelters are in the vicinity of the storage buildings indicated as points 6, 7, 26 and 27 on the attached sketch. Workers employed with the firm constructing these air-raid shelters were sworn not to divulge any information concerning their work.
6. In the eastern part of the Bratislava port (point 31) there are 12 crude oil storage tanks⁷ (capacity 100 tank cars each) and a crude oil pumping station. In April 1954 this area was sealed off by barbed wire and since then is constantly guarded by a three-man sentry wearing military uniforms with violet shoulder boards,⁸ armed with submachine guns and using dogs. One guardsman patrols inside the area while the two others go their rounds outside, along the barbed-wire fence. This guard replaced the former workers' militia guards who patrolled the area on bicycles prior to April 1952.
7. A new building was recently erected in the area of the Bratislava Slovnaft plant. The Source was told by employees of the plant that this building contained oil filters. There are rumors among the workers that the whole production of the Slovnaft plant is to be transferred to Fiskupice pri Dunaji (Ph9/Y09).⁹
8. The following commodities were recently exported from Czechoslovakia through the Bratislava port: Tractors, rails, steel pipes of larger diameter, trucks, agricultural machinery, belt conveyors, and sugar. Apart from these Czechoslovak products, trucks and tractors manufactured in East Germany were shipped through the Bratislava port. All these goods were exported to Rumania, Bulgaria, and Albania. Imports consisted of wheat from the USSR, gasoline from Rumania and oil from Austria.

1. Comment. The Ovsiste wood which was called Zahos-Osiste in another report from the same Source is probably identical with the wood situated north of the settlement indicated as Ovesne (Habern) on the map 1:25,000 Bratislava West, AMS series 3872, sheet 4758/2.

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2. Comment. It is probable that the marshy dead river arm marked on the map in this area was used for the construction of the new harbor basin.

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3.  Comment. Most probably barracks designated as "Q" in the Bratislava section of Military Installations, Czechoslovak Ground Forces, volume V, are meant. 25X1
4.  25X1
5.  Comment. The Tehelna Pole district is situated along the Eastern side of the Vajnorska cesta street in the northeastern part of Bratislava. 25X1
6.  25X1
7.  Comment. In other reports describing the Bratislava port, 16 to 18 crude oil tanks were reported as existing in this area. 25X1
8.  Comment. The shoulder boards indicate the Interior Guard (VS). 25X1
9.  Comment. A Slovnaft plant already exists in Piskupice pri Dunaji. 25X1

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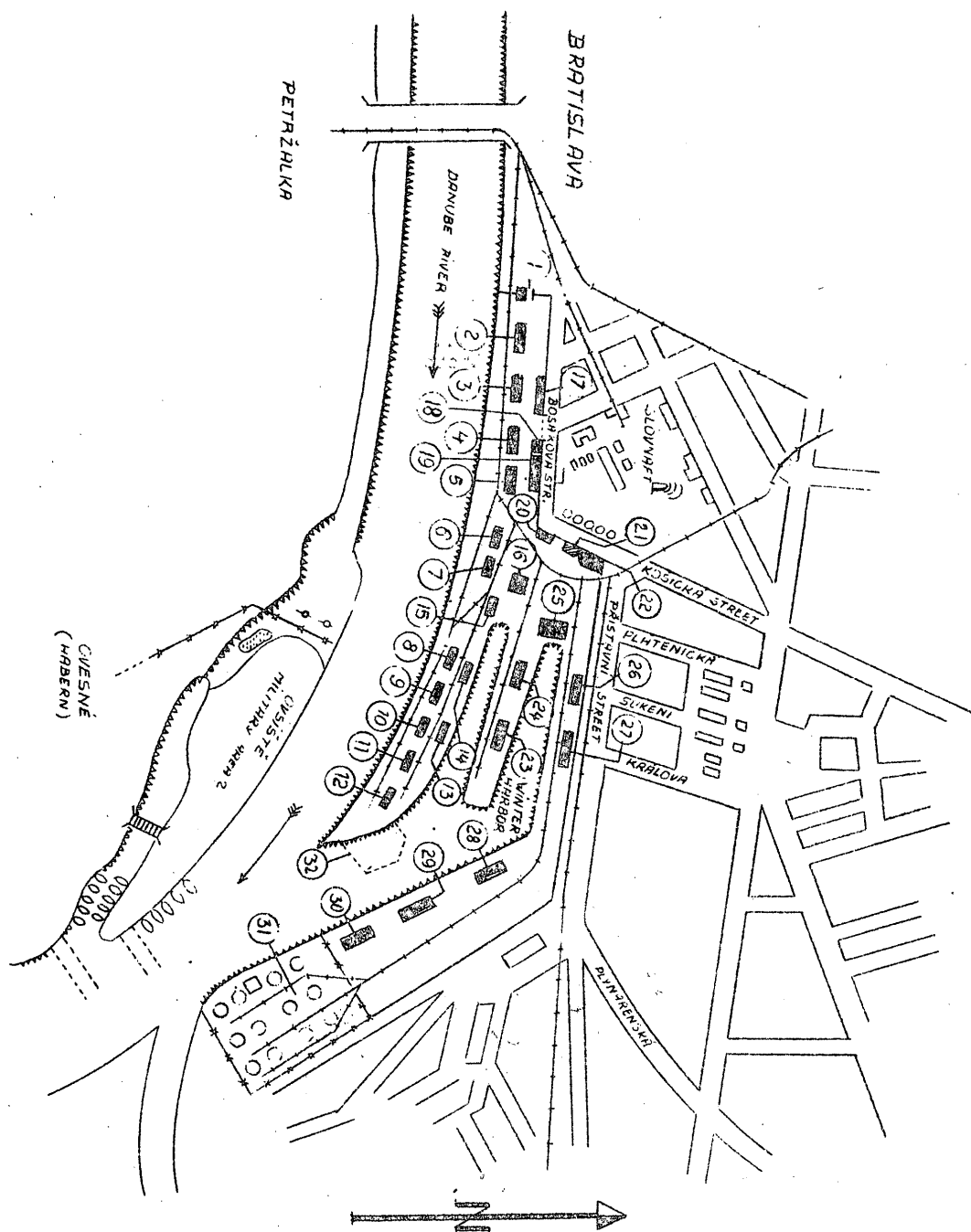
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Sketch of the Bratislava River Port
 Not according to scale.

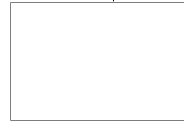


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Legend to the Sketch of the Bratislava River Port:

- 1 - Gate keeper's house
- 2 - 6 - Storage buildings
- 7 - Customs house
- 8 - 12 - Storage buildings
- 13 - Fire brigade station
- 14 - Workshop
- 15 - Sailors' home
- 16 - Port main offices
- 17 - Port offices
- 18 - Gate keeper's house
- 19 - Port offices
- 20 - Gate keeper's house
- 21 - Militia guardhouse
- 22 - Ryta plant
- 23 - 24 - Storage buildings
- 25 - Workshops
- 26 - 29 - Storage buildings
- 30 - Military storage buildings # 18
- 31 - Crude oil tanks area
- 32 - Former engineer harbor

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